

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify the grammar. The claim is amended to correct a double-negative.

This amendment adds no new matter, raises no new issues, and places all claims in immediate condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-08-157791 or JP-08-311419.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse for the following reasons.

JP-08-157791 discloses (i) an adhesive layer consisting of an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer having a melting enthalpy of 61 J/g in Example 1, and (ii) an adhesive layer consisting of an ethylene- α -olefin copolymer having a melting enthalpy of 71 J/g in Example 2, respectively. However, these melting enthalpies (61 J/g and 71 J/g) do not meet the requirement (a) recited in Claim 1 of the present invention.

Claim 1 recites: “. . . (a) the olefin copolymer has neither a peak of crystal melting enthalpy of not less than 1 J/g, nor a peak of crystallization enthalpy of not less than 1 J/g”

The Examiner agrees that the cited references have peak crystal melting enthalpies and peak crystallization enthalpies greater than 1.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/053,597

In furtherance of prosecution, claim 1 is amended to further clarify the difference between the cited art. Specifically, claim 1 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's proposed amendment, by which the double-negative is replaced with an affirmative recitation.

In the above proposed amendment, the term "not less than" is replaced by "greater than." Thus, the claim clearly does not read on the cited art, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection under § 102 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


John T. Callahan
Registration No. 32,607

Date: February 27, 2004

BEST AVAILABLE COPY